

PHARMACY continues to evolve worldwide, with pharmacists extending and changing their roles to meet the challenges and changing needs of healthcare, populations and consumers.

The value of pharmacy and pharmacists to healthcare systems is increasingly recognised and exploited, even as healthcare itself changes with advances in robotics, artificial intelligence, new drugs and health technologies.

Evolving and expanding roles for pharmacy signify strong employment growth for pharmacists, and open opportunities for individuals with relevant skills and entrepreneurial spirit.

The Master of Pharmacy Practice (MPP) programme at International Medical University (IMU) lets pharmacy graduates address their needs for education and training, as well as remain relevant to healthcare and healthcare management.

Offered in blended mode, the programme lets pharmacists work towards a master's degree while continuing to practise and

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immediately apply what they learn in their context.

Blended mode allows students to undertake most of their course online, with on-campus face-to-face sessions on some weekends.

The programme is thus able to personalise education and offers the accessibility of online learning together with social and professional interaction.

The university's e-learning environment (Moodle) lets students access all study content and offers technology-enhanced learning facilitated by moderators.

Face-to-face sessions include lectures, workshops, seminars and case presentations. Most of these sessions are scheduled on Saturdays at the IMU Bukit Jalil campus.

Students in the master's programme come from diverse backgrounds, bring varied talents and experience in the course, and

show that the programme appeals to hospital and community pharmacists as well as fresh graduates.

There are also students with academic pharmacy backgrounds. The small intakes foster an excellent learning culture and the programme provides many opportunities for cooperative learning with a high level of peer support.

Every student undertakes a research study under the supervision of faculty members with established research credentials.

Students benefit from the expertise of faculty members and the university's research collaborations with various institutions.

While the formal output of the research semester is a dissertation, students' professional interpersonal skills are also

enhanced by one-on-one interaction with their research supervisors, academics and other professionals.

Students of the first cohort are currently finalising their research dissertations – marking the last stage of their journey through the master's programme.

Though not its primary purpose, the master's qualification also opens opportunities for more advanced research training such as via doctoral programmes.

As befits a university with a 6 Star: Outstanding score in the Rating for Higher Education Institutions in Malaysia, IMU periodically reviews and revamps its courses.



The MPP is no exception, and is currently undergoing a review of content and delivery aimed at enhancing learning experience and outcomes.

■ For more information about IMU's postgraduate programmes, call 03-2731 7272, e-mail postgraduate@imu.edu.my or visit www.imu.edu.my